

# PCS BOAT REVIEW BY SAM WHITE

## Release Boatworks 46 Walkaround

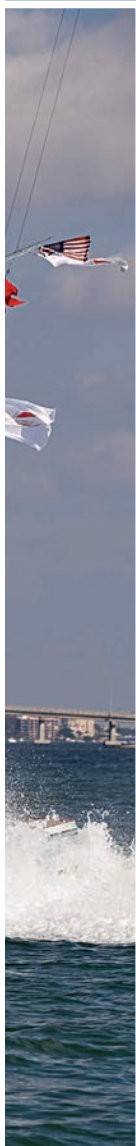


**A**bout once a decade a new boat hits the water that can truly be called “revolutionary.” Examples include the venerable Bertram 31, which became a near-instant classic. The first boats from Jarrett Bay and Buddy Davis introduced the world to what became known as the “Carolina flare.” The first sportfishing boats to surpass the 30-knot speed barrier, then 40 knots, these crafts define high performance on the water. And now comes the 46-foot Walkaround from Release Boatworks. The 46 deserves to be in such high company for several reasons, including its design, combination of tradition, technology and much more.

The Release 46 features a true walkaround design, with a wide, deep, one-level alley running completely around her, with no steps up or down from the cockpit to trip up an angler or deckhand as they work their way from stern to bow. It’s a design that’s inherently safer than more traditional models, a true marriage of form and function.

And she’s also beautiful. From her teak-capped, unbroken sheer and curved transom tumblehome to the classic lines reminiscent of the finest by Merritt and Rybovich, this boat is a real head-turner. And while the lines harken back to the finest classics of yesteryear, this one’s all high-tech beneath the skin. She’s constructed of a resin-infused hull using multi-directional fabrics including Kevlar and vinylester resins. There is a Corecell core in the hull, with carbon fiber in the stringers for increased strength and rigidity. She’s a strong, lightweight performer that’s built to run hard in the world’s toughest conditions.

Another highlight of this revolutionary model is the use of new pod-drive power packages in a hull design specifically created to take full advantage of the unique benefits that pods provide over traditional shaft-and-rudder boats. A pair of Cummins QSM11 715 hp diesels paired with Zeus drives gives the Release 46 jaw-dropping performance, both in terms of fuel efficiency, speed and maneuverability. At a cruise



of 2,000 RPM, she's making 29 knots and burning approximately 42 gallons per hour, depending on the fuel load and sea conditions, with a top end of nearly 38 knots.

One huge benefit of pod drives is the handling. Since they operate independently of one another, pods can provide infinite levels of maneuverability using a joystick control. The boat can literally be walked sideways with the pods. Spinning and backing on a hot marlin is as easy as a twist of the wrist, and in the hands of an experienced captain she's quite simply one of the most maneuverable gameboats on the water today. Pods also have the ability to keep the boat perfectly stationary in any current or wind with the touch of a button, a feature called Skyhook on the Zeus system. The Release 46 was one of the first boats anywhere to be designed from the hull up to take advantage of the benefits of pods, too—they aren't being installed as an afterthought in a boat originally meant for a shaft-and-rudder setup.

If the heart of the boat is in her performance, then her soul is her fish-ability, and that starts with the cockpit. Noticeable at first glance, it's more than spacious—it's huge. And while heavy-tackle anglers may opt for a full-size, unlimited class fighting chair, light-tackle aficionados will be better suited to go with either a rocket launcher or the new Battle Saddle product from Release Marine, which combines the best attributes of a fighting chair and rocket launcher in a cool new design that dovetails perfectly here.

Release Boatworks received input from some of the world's best captains and mates when designing the cockpit, and it really shows in the layout—from her tackle center to the fishboxes to the storage for



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## RELEASE BOATWORKS

### 46 WALKAROUND

#### SPECIFICATIONS

Length.....46'

Beam.....15' 4"

Draft.....42"

Displacement.....33,000 pounds

Fuel.....635 gallons

Water.....80 gallons

Power.....Twin Cummins

OSM11-715 hp/Zeus pods



Release Boatworks  
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long-handled accoutrements like gaffs and mop handles, the boat's form and function are executed perfectly. The express deck is topped by a tall, rakishly beautiful tower and double-spreader outriggers that attach to the tower instead of the gunwales, making for an unobstructed movement forward along the walkway. There's the now-obligatory mezzanine, making for an excellent, comfortable perch for watching the spread while trolling. A variety of setups can be utilized beneath the modular mezzanine design, including storage, refrigeration and freezer options, and since the Release is a completely custom model, it can be outfitted to meet the expectations of her owner.

The helm station features plenty of room for today's larger electronics displays, with overhead storage for electric teaser reels within easy reach of the captain. For those with a live-bait mentality, the boat has a 48-gallon livewell molded in the transom that can house a set of removable tuna tubes, while on the bow there's a pair of 10-gallon feeder wells already set in the gunwales, making it a cinch to keep baits pinned and ready to cast while jogging between tailing stripeys.

Moving forward, the most striking attribute is the single-level walkaround that runs from amidships to the bow and back along the other side. Imagine not having to clamber up steps, over outriggers and between a narrow, knee-banging space between the house and the bow-rail. It's a perfect design for angling a stubborn marlin or big tuna, as well as for handling the bow lines or anchoring, especially for families or small children who could easily slide out beneath a traditional bow rail. Pop-up cleats add to the clean lines. The Release 46 provides a level of safety and security that's simply unequaled in her class.

Down below, accommodations are simple but far from spartan, with a v-berth forward, full head with vanity and shower, two-burner cooktop and refrigerator in the galley and standup rod locker aft. Options include a sofa settee to port or an additional bunk, increasing her sleeping capacity for additional crew or family members to stay onboard. Storage abounds here with drawers and bins at every turn.

Express-style boats are exceptionally

Gear for your skin.



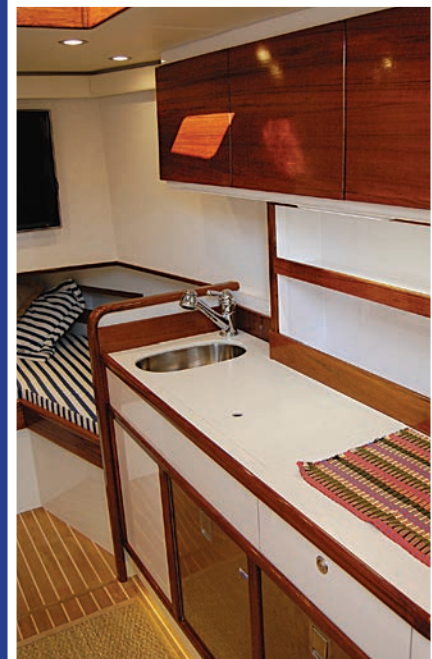
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(Above) The v-berth forward and optional settee, to port provide a comfort zone. (Below) The kitchenette area has sink, two burner cooktop and refrigerator.



popular on the West Coast since they give anglers and crews a place to get out of the cold and wind when the weather kicks up. They offer exceptional fish-ability when it comes time to put the lines in. The Release Boatworks 46 supercharges that express concept, adding the safety of a full walkaround design in addition to the technological benefits of pod drives and modern construction techniques combined with lines that are timelessly classic. ■

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